



### President's Message

On November 3, the Jim Berrier Memorial Lake was stocked with 300 brown and brook trout. Several have found their way to the dinner plate, but plenty remain. If you do fish remember to follow the Lake Rules. The Lake rules are accessible from the Lake Page on the IWLAR website <https://www.iwlar.org/jim-berrier-memorial-lake/>.

Wait... the lake has a name? It is named for James W. Berrier, a charter member of the Chapter and an avid sportsman and conservationist. He served as Chapter president in 1948 and was the prime mover in the construction of the original Chapter house. In recognition of his contributions, the lake bears his name. The lake was dedicated on June 21, 1958 – the 25th anniversary of the Chapter.

However, the work on the lake continues. We continue to make slow progress in acquiring all the permits to construct a silt reduction retaining pool to slow the rate of silt entering the lake. Hopefully we will be able to move to a construction phase in 2024 to provide Rockville members with 65 more years of lake enjoyment.

While you are at the lake, take advantage of the trails that both circle the lake and lead to other parts of the property. (Fun fact, take 3 trips around the lake on the trail and you will have walked a mile.) Enjoy the fall before winter sets in.

In other news, you, the membership approved the budget for 2024 and we have a full slate of activities in the planning stages. Spend some time with the Chapter's calendar <https://www.iwlar.org/calendar/> to see all the activities on a day-by-day basis.

In this short message I have referred you to the Chapter Website two times. When is the last time you visited the website <https://www.iwlar.org/> ? There is a ton of information there. Check it out!

And don't forget to renew your membership. You have until midnight December 31. If you do not renew your membership, access cards will be turned off. And to renew after the fact, you will have to pay a fee! So before the holiday madness kicks in, get your renewal off to the membership chair.

Tight Lines  
Noel

### Wood Duck Conservation in January

With January just around the corner, it's time to once again prepare the Chapter's wood duck nest boxes for the spring nesting season. This is a great opportunity to get a jump on your volunteer hours for 2024, contribute to a worthwhile conservation activity, and work alongside some great people in the process. This year's work days will include January 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, and February 4th. Each Sunday, volunteers will go out in the field to repair and replace boxes, check the predator guards, cut away brush and, most importantly, record nesting success from last spring. As you can imagine, it takes many hands to get the job done so please consider joining us for one or more work days. (This is also a great opportunity for middle school and high school students to earn Student Service Learning (SSL) hours!)

If you are not familiar with our program, the Chapter's Wood Duck Conservation effort has helped maintain nesting boxes and monitor wood duck populations since the 1950's. IWLAR maintains about 75 wood duck nesting boxes in Montgomery County, mostly in McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management Area west of Poolesville. Winter is the best time to prepare the boxes for the birds' arrival in late February/early March.

A few days before each wood duck work day, details about the next work day's meeting location, etc., will be announced via the IWLAR Google Group. Assignment of specific tasks will happen that Sunday morning, on-site. In general, we meet at the designated location at 10:00 a.m. and work is usually done by 1:00 p.m. The boxes are in wooded swamps and that requires wading in shallow water so chest waders or hip boots are ideal. For those who do not have their own, the Chapter has loaner pairs available. All tools and repair materials are supplied; you just bring the warm, willing body.

Keep an eye out for the weekly announcements in January on the IWLAR Google Group and sign up when you can. To sign up for any of the work days contact Joe Walther. Hope to see you out there!

**Note: More Range closures than usual in December**  
In addition to the usual training closures in any given month, the ranges will be closed on the last two Sundays of the month.

## Fish Stocking is a Family Affair

A great crowd gathered on a frosty November morning to stock trout in the Lake. We purchased the fish from a commercial hatchery in New Jersey. They come down in a truck with an aerated tank and IWLAR members move them from the truck to the lake. The fish are dumped off the end of the pier where the water is deeper to enable the fish to become oriented after a several hour ride in a tank. (We have stocked near the shore in the past and some fish have trouble finding their way to deeper water.) It just works better to place them in deeper water to begin with. It was a fun morning! You want to put this event on your calendar when we stock the lake in the spring.



*A great crowd on a frosty morning. Everyone had a chance to put some fish in the lake.*



*A young member gets some help from Dad to carry a bucket of water full of fish!*



*The fish are netted in the transport tank and loaded into buckets.*



*Fish are dumped into the lake at the end of the pier*

## New Members Recently Inducted

Steve Casley & Yiming Liu	Germantown
Victor Lu	N. Potomac
Jason Yanushonis	Bethesda

A warm welcome to all!

### **EMS Advisory**

All members are encouraged to participate in our Chapter's Environmental Management System (EMS). The following targets were established at the recent fall meeting of the committee to discuss the Chapter's environmental management goals.

- 1) Reduce plastic waste with a “bring your own canteen” campaign. Members are encouraged to bring their own refillable container to events. Event leaders can borrow a large jug for water.
- 2) Continue soil pH adjustments on ranges to prevent leaching and movement of lead.
- 3) Explore options to update the Chapter's lighting systems to more energy efficient LED.
- 4) File a new Forest Stewardship Plan (due Oct 2024).
- 5) Continue with the silt-reduction plan for the lake.

### **...and no actual Turkeys were harmed**

Great weather and meticulous groundskeeping showed the Shot Gun Range at its best. The field of about twenty competitors made for a successful reboot of the IWLAR Fall Turkey Shoot on November 19.

The contestants from several Maryland Chapters exchanged money and lies through three stages leading up to the grand prize of a Turkey. Family and friends and the competitors enjoyed a warming fire and hot dogs and marshmallows and smores. The event went smoothly thanks to diligent preparation on the part of Tom Vegella, Jay Copsey, Daniel Reggia, and John Shea.

### **Watersports closes out 2023**

Eight Ikes and family members hit the Potomac for the final kayak trip of the year on October 28. The event was a make up for a rained out trip two weeks earlier. It was an unseasonably warm day for late October, with temperatures reaching the low-80s. The river was very placid that day (see photo) but there was a gentle current. The group put in a Point of Rocks and came ashore at Noland's Ferry. It was a short trip of just over 4 miles and took about 2 hours including a lunch break.



### **Ike's Want Ads**

**To place a non-commercial ad**, write to the Chapter's PO Box 2255, Germantown, MD, 20875, or contact Todd Anderson. Ads must be submitted by the third Friday of the month.